



Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona

NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Napolitano and Chairman Owens Announce \$2.99 Million Loan to Tucson for Reclaimed Water Expansion Project

TUCSON – Governor Janet Napolitano and Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) of Arizona Chairman Steve Owens today announced a \$2.99 WIFA loan to the city of Tucson to assist the city with a reclaimed water system expansion project.

"This project will help reduce the city's use of drinking water for irrigation," said Governor Napolitano. "It follows my commitment to preserving and protecting our precious water resources."

The project includes the design and construction of transmission and distribution mains. This will provide several Tucson Unified School District schools and the Forty Niner's County Club with direct access to reclaimed water for turf irrigation.

"We are pleased to partner with the city of Tucson to expand its use of reclaimed water by providing the city with one of our low-interest loans," said WIFA Chairman Steve Owens, who is also director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. "We want to encourage communities to move away from using groundwater for irrigation purposes."

Tucson Water currently supplements local wells through an emergency interconnect of potable water to meet water demands. Expanding the current reclaimed water system will more sufficiently provide treated water for turf irrigation by directing reclaimed water directly to the schools and country club.

"The WIFA loan will help Tucson expand their water infrastructure to meet this community's needs in an environmentally sensitive way," said WIFA Executive Director Jay Spector.

The city of Tucson and the county club are also providing funding for the project.

Tucson voters authorized this project in a May 16, 2000 revenue bond election and the project is scheduled for completion in December 2005.

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ABOUT THE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY OF ARIZONA

The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona maintains and improves water quality in Arizona by providing communities and private water systems with access to low-interest financial assistance and technical assistance needed for basic water infrastructure. WIFA's funds are capitalized by contributions from the US Congress and the state of Arizona. As a leader in water infrastructure finance, WIFA has become a premier financial institution both in Arizona and nationally. Visit WIFA's Web site at www.azwifa.gov.